



2020 Work Plan International Observatory for Participatory Democracy

Introduction

The International Observatory for Participatory Democracy is a network of local and regional governments, research centers and organizations from civil society that work to defend, impulse and improve local democracy. The IOPD collaborates with UCLG since 2006 and this work plan aims to reinforce this relationship by framing the action of IOPD more clearly in the domain of the network and aligning their strategies. UCLG is the main global network of cities and local governments, it represents these voices in the global context and its main principles are proximity, decentralization and political leadership.

This work plan aims to define strategic priorities, to detail, not only general objectives, but also actions and concrete tasks that are doable and evaluable and to organize a work agenda. The Work Plan must be implemented by the IOPD presidency, the technical secretary and all the network's members.

The IOPD working plan is divided in four parts:

PART 1. Strategic priorities

PART 2. Thematic priorities and axes of action

PART 3. Tasks to impulse networking

PART 4. Agenda

PART 1. Strategic priorities

Objectives

1. Strengthen IOPD' actions as an observatory
2. To expand the network and improving its utility
3. To frame some IOPD activities in the UCLG network

To achieve these objectives happen, we define the next strategic priorities:



- ❖ **PRIORITY A. Communication and awareness campaign.** Includes, on the one hand, the follow-up and internal IOPD communication, including its organs and its members. Its aim is to improve this kind of communication. On the other hand, it also includes external communication and awareness raising. Here the priority is to make IOPD activities more visible, to raise awareness among the general public about the importance of participatory democracy and to share the existing participatory experiences.
- ❖ **PRIORITY B. Evaluation of practices.** This kind of action has always been present in the IOPD and some activities have been developed along these lines, such as the Best Practice Awards. This kind of action would now be one of the four IOPD priorities as an observatory. The aim is for it to become not only a repository of experiences and a space for exchange, but also a tool for the promotion of the quality of participatory democracy, through the development of new actions.
- ❖ **PRIORITY C. Strengthening: growing the network.** This priority includes the identification of criteria to widen the network, like e.g. the kind of organisation/institution, the geographical location, etc. In addition, it includes the inclusion of new types of members, like for example social movements and informal platforms. **Strengthening the network:** to get new promoter members, governments or organizations that would co-leading the network
- ❖ **PRIORITY D. Learning: decentralised cooperation.** It is a priority not only to promote the growth of the network, but also to improve the quality of exchanges between members to incentivise decentralised learning.

PART 2. Thematic priorities and axes of action

Democracy is in crisis in many countries according to a broad consensus with a peak of populist political parties, diminution of electoral participation and according to the trust indicators towards political parties and institutions.

On the other hand, the emergence of new forms of participation and political mobilizations are channeled through communication technologies. These same experts don't agree on the causes or possible solutions to the challenges our societies are facing. Local governments have a key role in developing democratic innovations, in carrying out public policies that strengthen social and community ties and in defending human rights. The IOPD considers this local governments' role and wants to contribute to weaving this network of cities and municipalities that work in promoting, defending and increasing local democracy. [The agenda for local democracy](#) is the IOPD reference guide for local governments to develop democracy.



Regarding the thematic priorities, we must promote a set of actions that we will develop in the 3rd part. To organize seminars or thematic sessions (task 9), commission of a study and make publications (task 12).

Thematic priorities for 2020:

The 2020 General Assembly defined The 2020 General Assembly defined as thematic priorities for the work of the technical secretariat: “the role of citizen participation in climate change mitigation” and the “gender perspective in citizen participation”.

Other priorities thematic will be:

- Participatory budgeting for the youth, youth citizen participation
- Legal frameworks to institutionalize participatory policies in Local Governments.
- Local democracy mechanisms regarding the diversity of people through sortition,
- Democratic innovations through ICTs.

PART 3. Tasks to impulse networking

PRIORITY A. Communication and awareness campaign	
Internal communication	
Task 1	Diagnose of the existing communication mechanisms with members and proposal of new mechanisms in order to maintain permanent channels of exchange with them.
Task 2	Administration of the email account
Task 3	Update on activities and events, both to members and to the political representatives in the internal IOPD organs
External communication	
Task 4	Repository of experiences <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establishment of new criteria to systematise information about existing experiences, according to topics (currently, they are only classified by country) b. Reflect upon the added value of this repository, compared to others c. Active search of new experiences, activating the network



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	d. Co-production of the description of experiences, jointly with local actors
Task 5	Study and proposal of general communication strategy
Task 6	Improvement and update of the website a. Organisation of the information b. Update of the website and social networks
Task 7	Publication of reports (related to tasks 11 and 12) a. Publication of the annual report (coinciding with the annual conference) b. Publication of special reports
Task 8	Support to the communication of the annual conference
Task 9	Organization of three international events (according to priority contents, task 20)
Task 10	Participation in international events jointly with UCLG

PRIORITY B. Evaluation of practices	
Task 11	Participation in the CGLU - International IDEA's project about the state of local democracy in the world.
Task 12	Special reports a. Fundraising b. Assignment (in relation to the priority contents) c. Production of the report
Task 13	Premios a las buenas prácticas Best Practice Awards a. Review of the criteria and process for the award b. Call for candidacies c. Applications and selection process d. Publication of results e. To look for funds in order to offer a monetary award
Task 14	Coordination of mutual evaluation mechanisms (between members) <u>Josh Lerner:</u>



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	We could support this work through the new Global PB Hub, which has a focus on research coordination. https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/globalpbhub/
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PRIORITY C: Strengthen: widening the network	
Task 15	Clean up of the current list of members (previous contact with inactive members)
Task 16	Identification of strategic criteria for the addition of new members
Task 17	Admission of new members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Identification of potential membersb. Contact and addition of new membersc. Ask for information about their needsd. Ask for an authorization to publish their datae. Ask for contacts
Task 18	Admission of new promoter members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Contact with local governments leaders in participatory democracyb. To improve the new promoter members' role definition

PRIORITY D: Learning: decentralised cooperation and joint actions	
Task 19	Study of the collaboration forms (existing forms, incentives, technical resources and new proposals) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Assignment of the studyb. Production of the study
Task 20	Proposal of new cooperation mechanisms (e.g. workshops, joint evaluation - task 14 -, share virtual offices, etc.)
Task 21	Identification of priority contents (according to the Agenda for Local Democracy)
Task 22	Development of the online platform PARTICIPATE OIDP

PART 4: Agenda



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January	Preparation materials for the IOPD Award Preparatory work for the 2020 conference Work on the 2019 conference minutes
February	<i>WUF 10 Call for candidacies to the IOPD Award</i>
March	Seminary IOPD 1
April	Award Evaluation Call for 2020 Conference sessions
May	Congress of European Municipalities and Regions CEMR 2020
June	Seminary IOPD 2
July	20th IOPD Conference: July 20-22nd, Cocody (Abidjan, Ivory Coast)
August	
September	The 2020 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy
October	Iberian PB Meeting Cascais / Citizenship Academy
November	
December	

Events:

- UCLG Retreat y campus Barcelona
- World Urban Forum (8-13 february 2020, Abu Dhabi)
- Organize one or two IOPD seminars / sessions for spring 2020
- 2020 IOPD Conference (july 2020)
- Iberic Encounter (October Cascais)

Projects

- Pilot-cities Metropolis
- UCLG - IDEA
- Horizon 2020



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With the support of:

